

Organizing a Debate: Guidelines

In this class activity students will hold a debate on a topic of interest to the class. As a group, students can decide the topic or a topic can be assigned. If students are unsure of which topic to debate, choose a topic that is accessible and one on which students will have an opinion. A good starter topic is: **Teachers should not assign homework on the weekends.**

Outline the following debate structure on the board:

The **argument speaker** introduces the topic and states their first argument.
3 minutes

The **counter argument speaker** states their first argument.
3 minutes

The **argument speaker** states their second argument.
3 minutes

The **counter argument speaker** states their second argument.
3 minutes

5-10 minute break for each team to prepare a rebuttal speech.

The **counter argument speaker** states a rebuttal for the argument's position and summarizes his/her own position.
2 minutes

The **argument speaker** states a rebuttal to the counter argument and summarizes his/her own position.
2 minutes